Recognisation of Medical Colleges in Maharashtra

52. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of students of reputed medical colleges in Maharashtra have been facing uncertain future for want of recognition of their colleges by the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps have, so far, been taken to recognize those medical colleges and by when they are likely to be recognized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) With the establishment of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik all the medical colleges in the State of Maharashtra have been affiliated to this University. The first batch of students admitted under the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences appeared in the final MBBS examination held by the University in November, 2002. The MBBS degree awarded by the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik in respect of the students being trained in various medical colleges in the State of Maharashtra has since been recognised by the Government and included in the first schedule to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 by a notification in the Official Gazette.

Pilferage of medicines in ayurvedic dispensaries under CGHS

53. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a large scale pilferage of medicines in ayurvedic dispensaries under CGHS in Delhi and elsewhere because a large number of items are issued without proper receipts, thereby allowing a wide scope to doctors and staff in the dispensaries to misappropriate the medicines for which genuine patients suffer;

(b) the criteria adopted to determine whether a particular medicine is to be issued through a signed slip or otherwise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to tighten the procedure for the issue of all medicines from ayurvedic dispensaries so as to minimize the pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. There is no specific instance of pilferage of medicines under CGHS has come to light.

The restricted medicines are issued against special chits printed for the purpose. The signature of the beneficiaries is taken on these chits along with the CGHS token card number and OPD number. For non-restricted items, the medicines are issued with proper entries in the register maintained for the purpose. Signature of the beneficiaries is taken in the register to mitigate scope for misappropriation or pilferage.

(b) All ayurvedic patent and proprietary medicines are issued against the chits. There is an ayurvedic formulary for restricted and general medicines duly approved by the Competent Authority.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Birth Rate

54. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the birth rate in India is much higher than China;

(b) if so, whether population in India would not overtake Chinese population in the span of few years; and

(c) in what manner Government are tackling the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per report of the WHO 'Selected Health Indicators' the birth rate of China is 13.38 and as per Sample Registration System (SRS) birth rate of India is 25.4, for the year 2001.

(b) As per UN Publication (World Population Prospects-1998), projected population of India and China are as below: